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The Musical Instruments Collection

Library of Congress

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Vol. 52, No. 9
May 3, 1993

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: Dayton C. Miller holds one of his prized glass flutes, which are now in the Music Division collection. *Photo from Music Division*

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GUY LAMOLINARA, Editor
LUCY D. SUDDRETH, Editorial Assistant
ANN M. JEFFERSON, PEGGY F. PIXLEY, SHERYLE O. SHEARS, Composing

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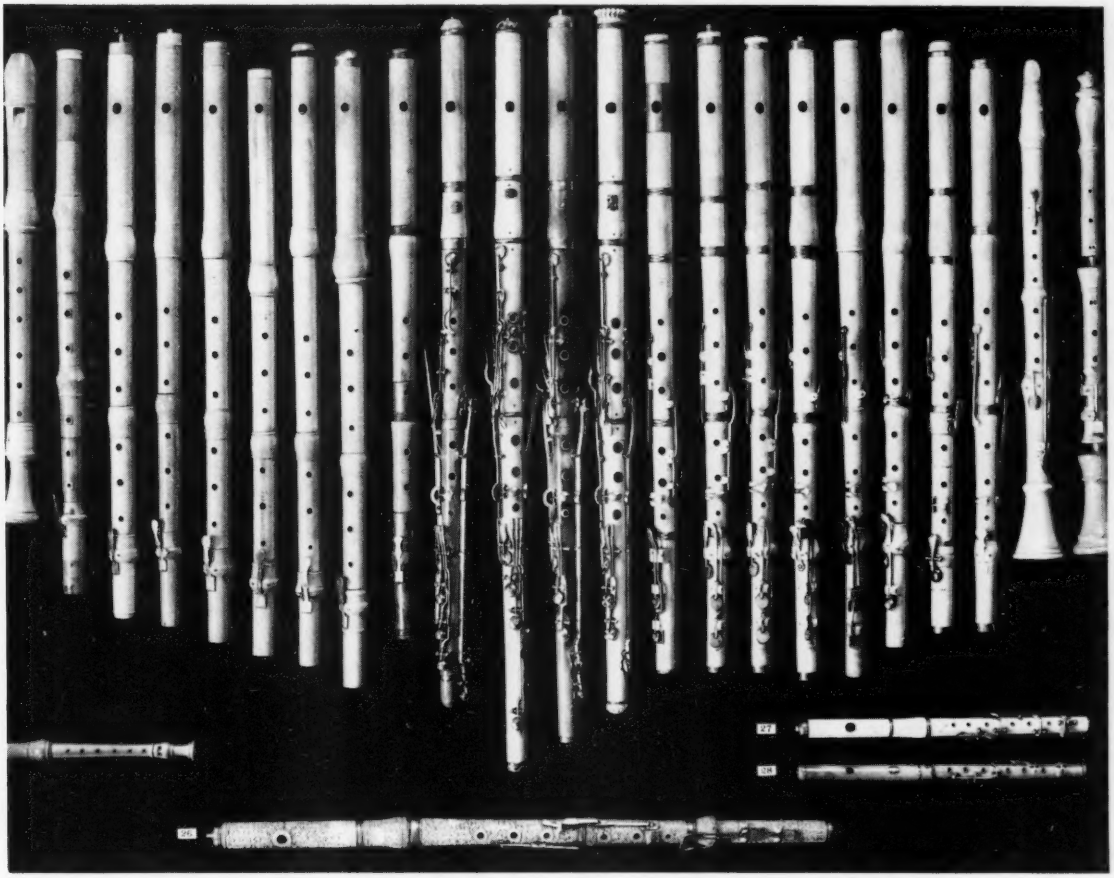


Ivory flutes from the Dayton C. Miller Collection. *Photo from Music Division*

Making Noises:

LC's Instruments Collection Is Heard as Well as Seen

by Barbara Bryant

Two-string fiddles; an ivory clarinet; a Chinese stone whistle, possibly dating back to around 1100 B.C.; flutes made of gold, jade, glass, even Plexiglass; three violins; two violas; and a cello made by Antonio Stradivari. These are just a few of the 1,800 instruments in the Music Division's valuable collection at the Library.

Since its acquisition of Thomas Jefferson's personal library in 1815, the Library of Congress has collected a wealth of diverse music and related material ranging from books and sheet music to patents for new musical inventions, concert programs and trade catalogs. In 1925, thanks to the generosity of Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge, a pianist, composer and philanthropist, the Library's Music Division expanded its role by building the Coolidge Auditorium, sponsoring performances and commissioning new compositions from major composers of the time.

About 10 years later, another patron, Gertrude Clarke Whittall, offered her five Stradivari stringed instruments to the Library, along with early 19th century bows by François Tourte. She also funded the construction in 1939 of the Whittall Pavilion in LC's Jefferson Building. Her financial support further helped

the Music Division to sponsor concerts and other performances. For many years, the Budapest Quartet frequently came to perform on her Stradivari instruments, as has the Juilliard String Quartet since 1962.

But the impact of Mrs. Whittall's patronage didn't end there. As Robert Sheldon, the instrument collection's curator, explained in a 1991 article in *The Flutist's Quarterly*, her generosity paved the way for other donations.

"In 1938 Mrs. Robert Somers Brookings of Washington, D.C., presented the Library with her husband's fine violin, the "Brookings" [1654] by Nicolò Amati, requesting only that it be 'for useful service at the Library,'" Mr. Sheldon explained. In 1952 the great Austrian violinist, composer and collector Fritz Kreisler offered the Library his collection of manuscripts and two of his instruments, including a half-size violin he used as a child and the famous "Kreisler" violin made by Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesu in 1733. Last October, Mr. Sheldon took that instrument to Vienna for the third Fritz Kreisler International Violin Competition. Three of 61 contestants performed several of Kreisler's well-known compositions on the instrument.

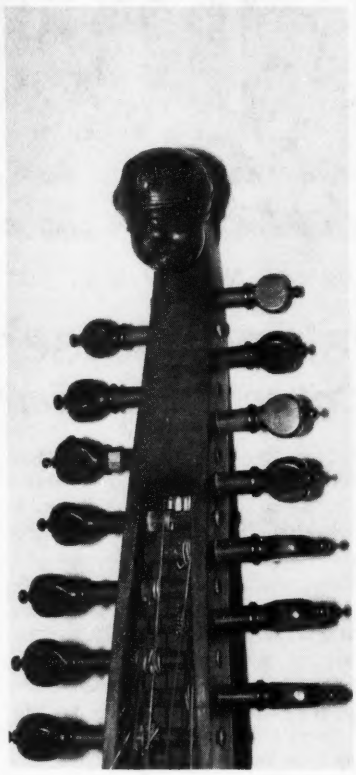
The eight stringed instruments in the division's collections by Cremona, Italy's Guarneri, Amati and Stradivari were made in the 17th and 18th centuries. The H. Blakiston Wilkins collection of six stringed instruments was given to the Library in 1937 and includes viols, violas d'amore and a quinton (roughly speaking, a five-stringed violin); these instruments were also made in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The Dayton C. Miller Collection features nearly 1,650 flutes and other wind instruments, 10,000 pieces of music, 3,000 books and artworks including prints and engravings, three bronzes and 60 figurines depicting musical scenes and performers. A respected physicist and professor at the Case School of Applied Science in Cleveland (now Case Western Reserve University), Miller (1866–1941) amassed what Mr. Sheldon described as "probably the largest private collection . . . devoted to one subject in the musical arts." Miller's records show that he frequently paid less than $10 for some of his most valuable flutes, which are worth thousands of dollars today.

"Vintage instruments weren't valued as highly during the half century he devoted to active collecting as they are now," Mr. Sheldon explained. "A lot of owners didn't know what they had."

In 1960 King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand gave the Library what is referred to as the "Thai Collection" of 10 ornately crafted Siamese-style folk instruments. The collection includes two small hand drums, a pair of finger cymbals (*ching*), two vertical flutes (*Khlui*), a three-string zither (*jakhe*) and two pairs of two-string fiddles, which are designed to be played vertically. The King is an avid amateur saxophonist and composer in the American popular music style, and the Library holds several examples of his works.

The Library's musical instruments

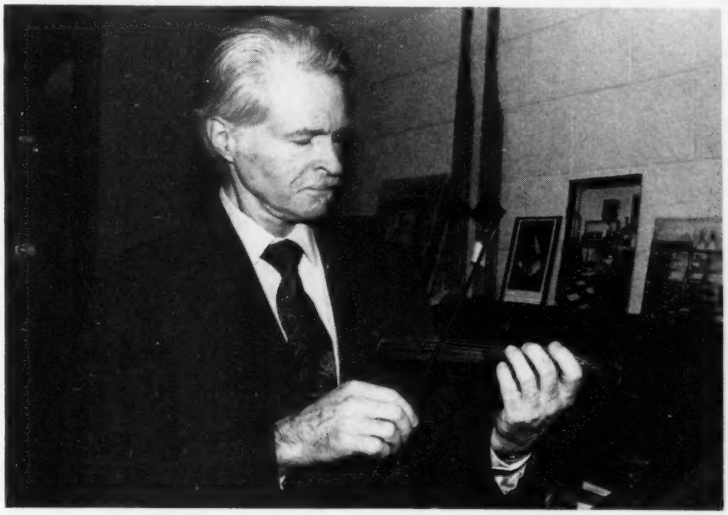


Viola d'amore by an unknown German maker from the mid-18th century; the pegbox features an unusual carved head with a blindfold. *From the H. Blackiston Wilkins Collection, Music Division*

vault also houses another collection of about 100 brasswind and woodwind instruments dating from ca. 1760 to ca. 1955. Included are special examples, such as an early American clarinet by Anthony in Philadelphia; an early English cornet by Metzler of London, ca. 1835; a three-keyed serpent (a serpentine-shaped forerunner of the tuba) by Francis Pretty of London, ca. 1830; a cor d'orchestre (orchestral horn) by D. Jahn of Paris, ca. 1825, its bell lavishly decorated in red and gold; and the earliest known keyed bugle, presented to Edward Kendall by the Boston Brass Band, which he founded in 1835.

Before coming to the Library in 1987 Mr. Sheldon was a museum specialist for 23 years in the Smithsonian Institution's Division of Musical Instuments, where he treated and played some of its period instruments. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, he has performed with many organizations, such as Aston Magna, Concert Royal, the Ensemble for Early Music, the Amadeus Winds and the Theater Chamber Players of the Kennedy Center. Mr. Sheldon has also recorded for the Library of Congress, Mercury, Erato, Decca, Nonesuch and New World labels.

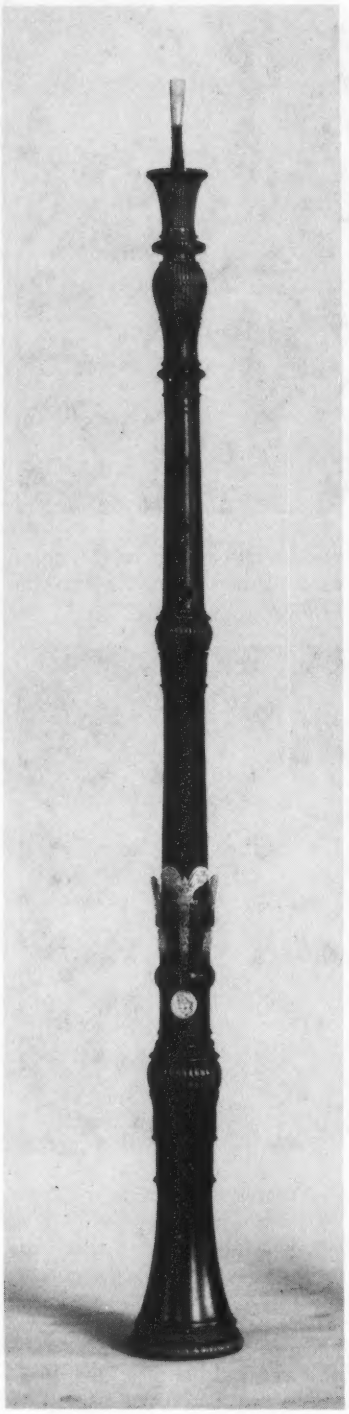
As curator of the Music Division's instrument collections, he continues to perform those conservation treatments that can be accomplished in the temporary instruments vault in the basement level of the Madison Building. Although the collection will be moved back to the Jefferson in about three years, Mr. Sheldon seems to enjoy the obscurity and close confines of his current location. Security is tight and for good reason. "This one box has over 10 million dollars' worth of maple in it," he explained, pointing to the case in which four Stradivari instruments are kept. Other unique and closely guarded items include 17 glass flutes, one of which was presented to James Madison in 1813 and may have been a gift from Lafayette, an 18th century ebony flute and its ornately painted porcelain case once owned by flutist and composer Frederick the Great of Prussia and later (in 1930) by Dayton Miller, and a mahogany inlaid violin case, ca. 1870, which belonged to King Ludwig II of Bavaria and once housed his Stradivari violin.



Robert Sheldon holds a dancing master's fiddle, or "pochette," dated 1685; these instruments were used by traveling dance instructors to play basic tunes for students. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

Ivory statuette from the Dayton C. Miller Collection

There are many unusual items too, such as the dancing master's fiddle, or "pochette," dated 1685, used by traveling dance instructors



to play basic tunes for their students; a series of viols that sport carved heads, one of them blindfolded; multi- and single-piece walking stick flutes; and several flutes for one-handed performers.

"A few one-handed flutes were made toward the end of World War I on the assumption that there might be a market for them when wounded soldier flutists returned home," Mr. Sheldon explained. "One hopes the manufacturers didn't sell as many as they thought they might."

A Dutch oboe made in Amsterdam, ca. 1700; closeup of the keys' detailing

But a flute made of *Plexiglass?*

"Woodwind instrument makers experimented with all sorts of materials, trying to come up with those that might sound good without warping or cracking the way wood and ivory do, and weren't as expensive as gold or silver," Mr. Sheldon responded. "Glass flutes worked quite well as long as they weren't dropped, but most were bought by wealthy amateurs. In the late 1930s a German manufacturer started experimenting with Plexiglass, which worked quite well for flutes, oboes, clarinets and bassoons, but the results were not destined to be successful. For one thing, conductors didn't want to see unusual equipment in their orchestras. Various orchestras have developed traditions regarding style and, therefore, equipment, all of which is factored into the performer's success—or lack thereof—on the audition stage."

The collection offers visitors an intriguing survey of music history and culture; each instrument reflects the styles and attitudes of its period. "In past centuries, people took their music very seriously; it was an important part of their everyday lives," Mr. Sheldon said. "I've been told that around 1900, for example, American households had more pianos than bathtubs."

The items include Dayton Miller's collection of folk flutes and whistles, plus flutistic bric-a-brac and assorted *kitsch* that he picked up during his many travels.

Tours of the collection are by appointment. Mr. Sheldon welcomes visitors and often works evenings to accommodate international visitors, many of whom are accredited violin makers who come to admire and measure the instruments.

"About half of our violin making visitors are from the Orient, especially Japan," Mr. Sheldon said. "They're fascinated with any Western music and take it very seriously. Tokyo has about four major symphony orchestras and the world's

only full-time professional contracted concert band not associated with a military or police service."

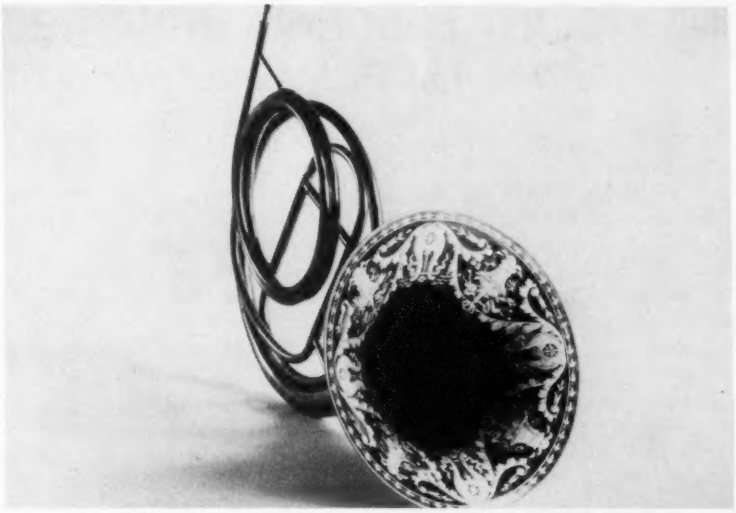
Mr. Sheldon has played host to many other well-known performers and experts such as André Previn and the Irish flutist James Galway, but most of the visiting craftspersons and performers are well known in the specialized early-music world of period instruments and playing styles.

"So far during my tenure here, [flutist] Jean-Pierre Rampal hasn't appeared in our storage vault, but his distinguished, well-known craftsman son has joined the ranks of our visiting professional violin makers," Mr. Sheldon recalled.

The casual visitor will no doubt welcome the collection's move back to the Jefferson Building, where it will occupy a larger space in the northwest corner of the ground floor, adjacent to the Coolidge Auditorium and Whittall Pavilion. The new location will include a laboratory, a curator's office surrounded by a study area, a storage vault and public exhibit areas, which will display about 50 percent of the instruments. The Cremonese stringed instruments will once again be featured in the Whittall Pavilion.

For Mr. Sheldon, his "work" is more pleasure: "The Music Division's extensive museum element is very unusual within the library community, and I enjoy working with collections that contain some of the world's most important holdings."

To examine the musical instrument collection, contact Robert Sheldon at the Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-4820; telephone (202) 707-9083.



Cor d'orchestre (orchestral horn) with decorated bell, made in Paris by D. Jahn, ca. 1825; monkey whistle from Dayton C. Miller Collection. ***Photo by Jim Higgins***

LC Suspends Interlibrary Loan to Foreign Libraries

The Library of Congress has announced the suspension of its practice of lending books to foreign libraries free of charge. This action has been taken as a result of a lack of funds to cover the program's postage costs. The Library does not receive a direct appropriation to support this program, which costs more than $55,000 per year.

Faced with the possibility of a no-growth budget, the Library has been forced to curtail services that do not directly complement its principal priorities of reducing the backlog of cataloging acquisitions and improving the security of the collections.

The Library currently lacks legal authority to recover postage costs by billing foreign borrowers. This authority is included in fund legislation recently introduced in the Senate by Claiborne Pell. If legislative approval is granted, the Library would most likely reinstitute foreign lending as a cost-recovery service similar to that of other national libraries.

According to Donald Curran, associate librarian for Constituent Services, "The Library regrets the suspension of this service, but it will result in improved service to American libraries. Staff time that has been spent working on requests from foreign libraries will now be devoted to providing rapid turnaround for U.S. libraries, especially those using electronic networks such as the OCLC and RLIN networks."

Musician, Teacher, Diplomat, Philanthropist:
Music Division Processes Henryk Szeryng Collection

Following is the first in a series of occasional articles to be published in the LC Information Bulletin *on the Library's new acquisitions or newly available collections.*

The Music Division has recently completed the processing of the papers of Henryk Szeryng, a renowned violinist who was also a teacher, diplomat, philanthropist and patron of the arts.

His widow, Waltraud Szeryng, donated all of her husband's music and papers after his death in 1988. These collected materials, together with various other photographs and papers donated by Szeryng's friends and associates, constitute the Henryk Szeryng Collection, which is now available for study.

The young Szeryng in Paris, 1935. Photos from Henryk Szeryng Collection, Music Division

James W. Pruett, Music Division chief, noted that "Mrs. Szeryng's gift to the Library not only provides documentation of Szeryng's musical career, but also reveals the extraordinary scope of his generosity to fellow musicians, especially his dedication to teaching."

A detailed guide to the collection is available at the Circulation Desk in the Performing Arts Reading Room of the Madison Building.

Henryk Szeryng was born in 1918 in Zelazowa Wola, Poland, the same Warsaw suburb in which Chopin was born. He began his study of the violin at the age of seven, soon moving from Poland to Berlin to study with violinist Carl Flesch. Szeryng made his first concert tour of Warsaw, Bucharest, Vienna and Paris in 1933 at the age of 15 and received the Paris Conservatory "Premier prix" for violin in 1937.

Szeryng's promising career was interrupted by World War II when, in 1941, he went to London and was appointed a liaison officer and interpreter for the Polish government. During the war he not only gave more than 300 concerts for Allied troops in Europe, Africa and the Americas, but also went to Latin America to find homes for 4,000 Polish war refugees.

His wartime association with Mexico and his appreciation of the country's acceptance of the refugees led to his return there after the war. He was named director of the String Department at the National University of Mexico in 1945 and was granted Mexican citizenship shortly thereafter. In 1956 he was named Mexico's Cultural Ambassador of Good Will and enjoyed the title of ambassador for many years thereafter.

Szeryng's international concert

career was revived in 1954, when Artur Rubinstein heard Szeryng play in Mexico and immediately contacted impresario Sol Hurok and other agents on Szeryng's behalf. In the years that followed, Szeryng performed in 65 countries on five continents.

His recordings include two complete sets of the solo sonatas and partitas of Bach, as well as Mozart and Beethoven sonatas and an extraordinary number of violin concertos from the Baroque to the modern era. His ties with Mexico led to his active promotion of several Latin American composers as well, such as Manuel Ponce, Cristobal Halffter and Reynaldo Hahn.

The Henryk Szeryng Collection, now housed in the Music Division, consists of more than 11,000 items that document the diversity of Szeryng's talents and activities. The largest component of the collection is Szeryng's vast musical library, consisting primarily of the printed scores from which he played. Many of those prints feature Szeryng's handwritten annotations and emendations. Of particular interest are the manuscript scores in the collection—not only Szeryng's own compositions but also his numerous arrangements and revisions of both standard and little-known works. Among the latter is Paganini's *Violin Concerto No. 3*, a work that Szeryng himself rediscovered, edited and brought back to the public through his performances worldwide.

Other materials in the collection include Szeryng's personal papers and various records of his teaching, concert performances and recording activities. The correspondence consists of letters between Szeryng and many prominent violinists, pianists and conductors, including Isaac Stern, Schlomo Mintz, Yehudi Menuhin, Rafael Kubelik, Erich Leinsdorf and Eugene Ormandy. Notes from the 30 years of master classes Szeryng held from 1952 until 1982 document his tireless activities as an educator. The more than 1,000 photographs in the collection depict Szeryng with other prominent musicians, diplomats and ambassadors, and his many awards and citations constitute an eloquent testament to his worldwide acclaim and popularity and to his many philanthropic activities.

Szeryng's accomplishments went far beyond those of a great violinist. His ability to speak and write in eight languages was paralleled by his uncanny ability to discern every part in the orchestra as well as his own. Violinist Henri Temianka has recounted a remarkable lecture-discussion at UCLA between Szeryng and Temianka on the Beethoven *Violin Concerto*—a spontaneous exchange of insights that ended with an unrehearsed performance of the entire concerto, with Temianka playing the violin solo and Szeryng playing the piano reduction of the orchestra part—from memory.

Szeryng's dedication to the encouragement of young violinists was

Szeryng with pianist Artur Rubenstein

pursued through his teaching and through the donation of several precious violins to younger colleagues and orchestras. Waltraud Szeryng perpetuates the spirit of that dedication by making available to both performers and scholars the music, writings and teachings of a great violinist and educator. In addition, she has established the Henryk Szeryng Foundation to provide financial and practical assistance to young violinists beginning their careers. On March 6 the first recipients of the new Henryk Szeryng Foundation Award had the opportunity to perform with the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra in Monaco.

Henryk Szeryng's association with the Library of Congress was established in 1970, when he performed in LC's Coolidge Auditorium with pianist Gary Graffman. He and Graffman performed there again in December 1971, and recordings of both recitals are housed in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. The recording of their 1970 recital has recently been broadcast as part of a special series of archival radio broadcasts distributed nationwide by the American Public Radio Network as well as in France, Italy, Australia, New Zealand and the former Soviet Union.

–Claudia Joan Widgery

The musician with his wife, Waltraud, 1985. Mrs. Szeryng donated the collection to the Library.

Law Library Hosts Institute on Foreign Legal Systems

The Law Library played host in the Library of Congress's Mumford Room to a full house of law librarians who participated in the Winter Institute of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) on February 3–6.

The popularity of the institute, whose theme was "Introduction to Foreign Legal Systems," became obvious in the early days of the mail-in registration period–all 75 places for the course were reserved within two weeks.

The idea of presenting introductory training courses on foreign legal research was part of a plan proposed by the AALL National Legal Resources (NLR) Committee for training a new generation of foreign and international law librarians. It has long been a favorite project of Law Librarian M. Kathleen Price, former NLR Committee chair:

Participants in the Winter Institute attend a video session on "Introduction to Foreign Legal Systems."

Taking a moment out during the institute were (from left) Kathleen Martin, M. Kathleen Price, Richard Danner and Marie-Louise Bernal. *Photo by Natalie Gawdiak*

"Law librarians are acutely aware of their need to keep pace with legal issues worldwide, both because economies are internationally linked and because public and private international law has enjoyed a resurgence with the end of the Cold War and U.S. involvement in Europe, the Near East and Africa.

"Scholars and government patrons look to foreign law models in such diverse areas as national health, environmental law and taxation," she added. "The practice of law is rapidly becoming multinational. To support the increasingly sophisticated needs of their clientele, library and information specialists must be able to access foreign law through their traditional sources, as well as through a variety of transnational data bases and Internet bulletin boards. Many recent graduates as well as incumbent professionals still have gaps in their basic knowledge about other legal systems, and this is one area where we think that AALL and the Law Library can help."

Codirectors for the institute were Richard A. Danner, director and research professor of law at Duke University School of Law Library, and Marie-Louise H. Bernal, legal research analyst in the European Law Division of the Law Library of Congress. Faculty for the 3½-day seminar consisted of 23 well-known experts in foreign law and librarianship from within the AALL membership, representing various service units of the Library of Congress and from among nationally recognized scholars and practicing attorneys specializing in foreign law.

The course centered on the needs of the novice librarian in the field of foreign and comparative law. Ms. Price and Rubens Medina, chief of the Hispanic Law Division, explored the impact of automated legal information networks on foreign legal research.

French attorney Philippe Bruno of Dorsey & Whitney entertained the audience while describing the "Common Law from a Foreign Lawyer's Perspective." In line with the main objective of the Winter Institute, to give the participants a general overview of the world's major legal systems, George Zaphiriou, professor at George Mason University School of Law, provided the basic "Introduction to Civil Law Systems" and was followed by in-depth lectures on the legal system of France by Claire Germain, Duke University School of Law; the German system by Edith Palmer, senior legal specialist in the European Law Division; and Mexico's system by Dr. Medina.

To illustrate the ability of a legal system to adapt to changing politics, Andrzej Burzynski, legal counsel of the Polish Embassy, used his own country as an example, in "Socialist Law is Dead—What Instead?"

Also featured were lectures on selected legal systems in Asia by Professor James Feinerman of Georgetown University Law Center and Dr. Tao-tai Hsia, chief of Far Eastern Law Division; Victor Essien of Fordham University School of Law spoke on African legal systems; Islamic legal systems were discussed by Afaf Mahfouz. Other Law Library staff members who participated as faculty by conducting group sessions included the Far Eastern Law Division's Sung Yoon Cho, assistant chief, on Japan; and Constance A. Johnson and Wendy Zeldin, legal research analysts, on China.

Besides the more academic and theoretical lectures, the final day of presentations brought out topics of practical concern to the librarian, such as Yale Law Library staff member Daniel Wade's "Building and Maintaining a Medium-to-Large Foreign Law Collection," and "Sources of Foreign Law in Translation" by Amber Lee Smith of the Los Angeles County Law Library. Margareta Horiba of Tulane University School of Law, in "Dealing with Foreign Publishers and Domestic Vendors of Foreign Legal Materials," shared her experiences with a team from the LC Acquisitions Directorate: Terry Peet, Hispanic Acquisitions Program; Nicholas Thorner, Order Division; and Fred Protopappas, Overseas Operations, who discussed "Acquiring Materials from Difficult Jurisdictions."

At the end of the program, the institute participants had a chance to hear "Transformation of Foreign Law Research: A Look at Novel LC Tools" by Jolande Goldberg, creator of Class K, the law classification system. Together with Rebecca Guenther, Network Development and MARC Standards Office, and Elizabeth Leahy, Cataloging Distribution Service, Dr. Goldberg demonstrated how the new foreign law schedules can be used for comparative law research.

The institute was the first in a series of five such seminars to be held in various large academic law libraries over the next few years.

—*Natalie Gawdiak*

Lewis Hanke, First Director of LC's Hispanic Foundation, Dies

Lewis Ulysses Hanke, 88, of Amherst, professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, died Friday in a local nursing home. Mr. Hanke was the first director of the Library's Hispanic Foundation, which later became the Hispanic Division.

He retired in 1975 after teaching at Columbia University and the University of California at Irvine. He also was an assistant professor of history at the University of Beirut in Lebanon and an instructor at the University of Hawaii.

Born in Oregon City, Ore., he graduated from Northwestern University with a master's degree, and from Harvard University with a doctorate in history.

In 1939 he became the first director of the Hispanic Foundation at the Library of Congress. He later became director of the Institute of Latin American Studies, and professor of Latin American history at the University of Texas in Austin.

In 1974 he was the first Latin Americanist elected president of the American Historical Association.

Mr. Hanke was a prolific writer on colonial Latin American history and was best known for his work on the life and writings of the Spanish priest Fray Bartolome de las Casas. In 1935 he published *The First Social Experiments in America: A Study of the Development of Spanish Indian Policy in the Sixteenth Century.*

Mr. Hanke was a member of the U.S. delegation at the founding of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945 and one of the U.S. delegates to the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) during the 1950s.

While at Harvard, he was the founder and first editor of the Handbook of Latin American Studies and was an editor of the *Hispanic American Historical Review.* He received the Order of the Condor of the Andes from the Bolivian government and was declared an honorary citizen of Potosi.

His wife, the former Kate Gilbert, died on March 18. He leaves two sons, Jonathan of Amherst and Peter of Austin; two daughters, Susan Abouhalkah of Houston and Joanne Schwarz of Bethesda, Md.; a sister, Genevra McDonald of Presque Isle, Maine; 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions should be sent to the Friends of the Jones Library, Amherst, MA 01002.

Manuscript Donor Lucy Kroll Garners Award

Lucy Kroll, well known literary and talent agent, received the Living Legacy Award in San Diego March 6. The award was given to honor Ms. Kroll's more than 50 years "representing some of the greatest talents of all time." Among her clients have been Helen Hayes, Carl Sandburg, Alex Haley, Lillian Gish, Norman Mailer, Ossie Davis, Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, Carl Sagan and Pat Carroll.

Ms. Kroll's papers are housed in the Library's Manuscript Division. The award was presented to Ms. Kroll by James Earl Jones, a member of the Library's James Madison Council, a private sector group that supports activities of the Library.

Hungarian Author Reads for World Literature Archive

András Süto, one of Hungary's most important contemporary authors, visited the Library last summer to read from his works for the Archive of World Literature on Tape.

The archive is maintained by the European Division and is a noncommercial record of authors reading from their works in their native language. The recordings are maintained in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division but will be accessible to patrons in the European Reading Room once it moves to its permanent location.

Through his writings, Mr. Süto has become the spokesman for the Hungarian minority of Romania. In his essays, dramas, and diary notes he defends the cultural and linguistic heritage of his people and speaks out boldly against all forms of oppression. The selections he chose were from his diary of 1984, published in the June 1992 issue of *Látó,* the journal of the Hungarian authors in Romania. In these selections he reflects upon the life and history of some Transylvanian villages, and contemplates the need to write what he refers to as the true history of a massacre that has been officially ignored for over 40 years before the records are lost and the eyewitnesses die.

Interspersed with the reflections on daily events are glimpses into the progress of his work on *Advent a Hargitán* which explains why poets and dramatists continue to write even when there is no chance their work will be published in their own country.

As with many writers of the region, a political role has been thrust upon him, and it was in this connection that his current tour of the United States was organized. That evening he gave a talk on the situation of the Hungarian minority in the almost three years since the revolution at the Hungarian Embassy.

The recording session was arranged by David Kraus, assistant chief of the European Division, at the request of Eniko Molnár Basa of the Serial Record Division. John Howell of M/B/RS welcomed the author and arranged for the session, which was taped by Mike Donaldson.

Fourth 'Decade of the Brain' Symposium Held at Library

The process of brain development was the focus of a "Decade of the Brain" symposium held at the Library on March 18. The series is cosponsored by the Library of Congress and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).

Declan Murphy, executive assistant to the Librarian of Congress, and Lewis Judd, cochair of the Decade of the Brain Advisory Group, welcomed the large audience of laypersons, scientists and congressional staff.

On July 17, 1990, President Bush signed a proclamation designating the 1990s as the "Decade of the Brain." The Library of Congress, serving as an educational resource for Congress and the public, entered into an interagency agreement with NIMH to conduct a decade-long lecture series to introduce members of Congress, their staff and the general public to new developments in the neurosciences.

This fourth symposium in the series focused on the process of brain development, from the earliest stages, *in utero*, through early childhood. Guest speakers for the symposium were David H. Hubel, M.D., a professor of neurobiology at Harvard Medical School and a Nobel laureate; Carla J. Shatz, Ph.D., a neurobiologist in the Department of molecular and cell biology at the University of California at Berkeley; and Paula Tallal, Ph.D., professor and codirector at the Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neurosciences at Rutgers University.

Dr. Hubel has done extensive work in the neurological mechanisms of vision. His revolutionary work on the visual cortex became a model for neurobiological research.

"As neurobiologists, our object is to understand the brain—how it works, how it is constructed and how it develops," said Dr. Hubel. "To learn how the brain works one has to study a part of it.

"By examining enough cells, in various parts of the brain, we learn how the brain analyzes the information it receives from the eyes. We also know that this part of the brain is to a large extent wired up and ready to go at birth," he added.

Tipper Gore greets Declan Murphy and the Librarian during the "Decade of the Brain" symposium. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

Dr. Hubel's work on postnatal development led to the prevention of one of the most common forms of blindness—congenital cataracts and eye misalignment caused by an abnormal visual experience once the fetus is born.

The concept that newborns need sensory stimulation to develop properly has been reinforced by Dr. Shatz and her work in cellular biology of the brain.

"There are three fundamental questions that motivate the research being conducted in my laboratory," she said. "How is the brain wired up during the development? How do nerve cells know where to grow their connections? To what extent is vision necessary for the visual system to develop normally?

"The connections from the eye to the brain form very early in fetal life, even before rods [rod-like photosensitive receptors in the retina] and cones [short sensory end organs in the retina that function in color vision] are present," Dr. Shatz continued. "We suspected that nerve cells in the eye might be signaling spontaneously to nerve cells in the brain."

Using a new physiological method, Dr. Shatz "listened" in on prenatal nerve cells and discovered that the eye nerves automatically and repeatedly signaled brain cells every few minutes, well before the eyes themselves develop. "The fetal brain is very busy checking and verifying nerve connections. Our studies of nerve cell signaling during development and the role of signaling in forming normal adult connections have direct relevance to the clinical topics of neurological birth defects and abnormal visual function," Dr. Shatz concluded.

"Some 3 to 10 percent of preschool children are estimated to have some form of developmental speech or language disorder that cannot be traced to a known cause such as hearing impairment, mental retardation or neurological disorder," began Dr. Tallal.

Dr. Tallal's studies with language-impaired children have raised some fundamental questions on the brain's development of specialized speech processing in the left hemisphere.

"Through understanding the underlying neural mechanisms which lead to disabilities, it will be possible to develop more specific treatment for language-impaired children in the future," said Dr. Tallal.

—*Lucy D. Suddreth*

Videotapes of each lecture are available at the Library and NIMH.

Ticket Information On 'Scrolls' Exhibition

"Scrolls from the Dead Sea: The Ancient Library of Qumran and Modern Scholarship" opens April 29 in the Library's Madison Building.

This major exhibition will be open to the public 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, through Aug. 1.

Large crowds are expected. Advance tickets are available and required. A limited number of same-day tickets will be distributed free, one-half hour before the opening, at the Independence Avenue entrance to the Madison Building, which is at First and Independence Ave. SE.

The Library itself charges no fees for any of its exhibitions. However, advance tickets are available through TicketMaster. These can be obtained for a convenience charge of $2.50 per ticket at all Hecht's department stores in the Washington-Baltimore area.

Phone orders are also accepted. Call (202) 432-SEAT in the Washington area, (410) 481-SEAT in the Baltimore area. All other areas call toll free at (800) 551-SEAT. There is a service charge of $3.50 per ticket plus $1 per order.

The Independence Avenue entrance to the building is barrier-free and the exhibition is accessible for persons with disabilities.

There is an optional audio tour of the exhibition, for $2.50, and may be reserved through TicketMaster when arranging for advance tickets. The audio tour may also be rented at the Library, if available.

A free coat check will be available; visitors should not enter with large personal belongings. No photographs will be allowed of the exhibition objects.

School groups should contact the Office of Educational Programs at (202) 707-1783 to make arrangements. The office will train teachers to take their classes through the exhibition.

ATTENTION, PHOTOGRAPHERS

The Library's Federal Research Division (FRD) is starting work on a series of country study handbooks to update *The Soviet Union: A Country Study*, published in 1991. The countries of the former Soviet Union (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan) will be grouped into books by region (e.g., the Baltics) and will provide an overview of what has happened to, and in, those countries since 1989. The books will cover recent history; the physical environment; population, health and welfare; religion; language; culture; the economy; government and politics; foreign relations; and national security.

In order to enhance the books with photographs, FRD is turning to all interested photographers who are willing to share their photos, slides, or both, of these countries (all materials will be returned).

Your reward for this act of generosity will be a copy of the book with your name in print and the honor of being a published photographer. If you are able to help, contact Helen Fedor at (202) 245-5229.

Neptune Plaza Concert Series Schedule

The American Folklife Center's 1993 Neptune Plaza Concert Series schedule follows. All concerts will be held on the steps of the Library's Jefferson Building, noon-1:30 p.m. The concerts are free.

NEPTUNE PLAZA CONCERT SERIES

☐ May 20: Tom Doherty, Maureen Doherty-Macken and Mick Moloney playing traditional Irish music.

☐ June 17: Northern Lights (bluegrass).

☐ July 15: Gospel singers from the greater Washington area.

☐ Aug. 19: Frankie Manning, one of the original Whitey's Lindy Hoppers, performing jitterbug with Baltimore dancer Leslie Coombs and a six-piece band headed by drummer Brooks Tegler.

☐ Sept. 16: Hispanic performance in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month (to be announced).

All the concerts are taped live and will be broadcast by WAMU-FM at a later date.

CORRECTION

A Feb. 8, 1993, story by Theodore Wiener of Collections Services erroneously stated that the United States Book Exchange is no longer in existence. USBE came under new management in March 1990 and operates at 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland, OH 44113.

LC, National Library of Medicine Issue AIDS/HIV Collection Policy

Joint Policy Statement Details Roles of Two National Libraries

The Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) have issued a Joint Collection Development Policy Statement on Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome/Human Immunodeficiency Virus (AIDS/HIV). This statement details the complementary collecting roles of the two national libraries in covering this important topic and represents the second in what is hoped to be a continuing series of such joint policy efforts by the Library in collaboration with NLM and the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

The first cooperative effort was in September 1989, when the Library of Congress, the National Library of Medicine and the National Agricultural Library issued a Joint Collection Development Policy Statement defining the field of biotechnology and indicating the collecting policy for each library as a guide for users of their collections. In the near future, LC and NLM will begin work on a joint policy defining collecting responsibilities for materials in the field of psychology. These efforts are particularly timely as the three libraries search for ways to utilize their resources to the best effect in a period of reduced budgetary means.

For many years the Library of Congress has deferred to the National Library of Medicine, as the nation's library of record in biomedicine, in the acquisition of library materials relating to clinical medicine, while maintaining research collections on the sociocultural, economic, political, geographical and legal aspects of medicine.

There have been continuing discussions toward refining the acquisitions policies of the two institutions for AIDS/HIV materials for a sharing of resources and ensuring that all materials of research value were held by one or the other national library. In the case of this extremely diverse and multifaceted literature, however, the general missions and collecting responsibilities of these two national libraries cannot be mutually exclusive.

According to this policy, the Library of Congress will collect in all media that contribute to a knowledge of the cultural, psychological, economic, political, historical, ethical, social, educational, religious and legal aspects of the AIDS/HIV phenomena. Generally, LC will not acquire works relating to the actual practice of medicine and AIDS/HIV issues addressed primarily to professional practitioners or to the biomedical research community. LC will collect materials on AIDS/HIV as they relate to research in the biological sciences as a whole, to be covered with the same level of inclusiveness as works in these fields are broadly covered to support general research. LC will also collect medical materials to the level prescribed for medical literature established by LC acquisitions policy.

More particularly, LC will attempt to collect **comprehensively** in the field of legislation and other governmental documentation related to AIDS/HIV in the United States at both national and subnational levels and for foreign legislation, in accordance with established acquisitions policies.

In addition, LC will strive to collect a broadly representative sampling of all types of materials and formats that document the impact of AIDS/HIV on the public imagination, as reflected in literary, dramatic and artistic production as well as historical and sociological studies. General canons of selection for materials in these fields shall apply. LC, however, gives special attention to the collecting of graphic and moving-image materials.

NLM assumes primary collecting responsibility for the clinical and research aspects of the AIDS/HIV literature and also assumes a primary role in collecting and preserving the public health literature. All of this material is collected comprehensively. Other substantive AIDS/HIV related literature, including media and print materials that chronicle associated health-related developments or trends, are typically produced as narratives or commentaries rather than in traditional scientific style. These materials are collected broadly as well.

Public health issues and crises such as the AIDS/HIV epidemic often engender a large body of literature, not completely biomedical in content or specifically addressed to the health professional. NLM collects selectively such materials emphasizing those that characterize diverse viewpoints, chronicle the public health response of health professionals and policymakers or document information about AIDS/HIV disseminated to patients and society at large. NLM's collecting focus is on works endorsed by health care associations, important patient advocacy groups and other influential organizations. Materials limited to civil rights, political issues, religion, criminal behavior and related nonmedical concerns are generally excluded from the NLM collection but are included in LC's collection.

Copies of the complete joint statement may be obtained from the Collections Policy Office or the Science and Technology Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-5580. Further details are available in the collections development policies issued by each library.

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